

termination of the National Center for Environmental Research, also known as the NCER, and its affiliated programs. By preventing such changes, my bill will safeguard critical research into the effect of chemicals, climate change, and air quality on children's health.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. I urge you to think of our future and to bring this bill to the floor for a vote.

CANN PARK OPERATION

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of agents with the Savannah Police Department.

In 2016, gangs that were regularly trafficking drugs and guns in the Cann Park neighborhood just south of Savannah's downtown were identified by the Savannah Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives as part of a 6-month undercover investigation.

In this joint operation, local law enforcement arrested 24 gang members, confiscating their drugs and firearms. Since the police apprehended these individuals, crime has sharply decreased in Cann Park—a 40 percent drop in violent crimes and a 75 percent drop in aggravated assaults with guns.

Members of the operation team, ATF's Special Agent Lee Hoover, SPD's Sergeant Samuel Hunt, III, and Detective Michael Dobson, have been invited to Washington, D.C., to receive the TOP COPS award. This award pays tribute to the bravery that our law enforcement officers exhibit every day risking their lives to improve the quality of life for our citizens.

I am glad to see these officers getting the recognition that they so richly deserve.

37TH ANNUAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, each day law enforcement officers all across our Nation risk their lives to keep our communities safe. Today at the 37th Annual Peace Officers' Memorial, we remembered the 21,541 fallen officers lost in the history of our Nation.

It was an honor to sit in solidarity with the families of Officer Gil Vega and Lesley Zerebny, two fallen heroes from my district.

I am proud to welcome Officer Vega's wife, Susana; daughters, Andrea and Vanessa; son, Isaac; and grandchildren, Marshal, Raul, and Sophia; and son-in-law, Raul, who are in the House gallery with us today.

It is our solemn duty to honor and respect the sacrifice of our law enforce-

ment and their families, and I am humbled to author H.R. 5006, the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responders Survivors Support Act. This legislation will help ensure that no officer has to worry whether or not their family will be all right if something happens to them in the line of duty.

It is an honor to serve in this great House, and we must do what is right for those who serve us and risk their lives in the streets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BACON). Members are reminded to refrain from referring to occupants in the gallery.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN WILKERSON, JR.

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John Wilkerson, Jr., who died on May 9, 2018. He was born in Hickory Grove, South Carolina, and remained a South Carolina local throughout his life.

As a young man, he served in the United States Navy and graduated from Clemson College with a degree in physics. After graduation, Mr. Wilkerson went on to lead a very successful business career. He was the owner of Wilkerson Oil Company, along with his brother, Merritt, and he later became the owner of River Hills Realty.

Mr. Wilkerson was also an active member in his community as a member of the River Hills Community Church, River Hills Lions Club, and the Lake Wylie Chamber of Commerce. In his life he was the recipient of both the Businessman of the Year Award and the Citizen of the Year Award.

Additionally, he was a well-known historian who authored the book "York County: Yesterday and Today 1550 to 2005."

Mr. Wilkerson was a valued member of our community, and he will be missed by his devoted wife, Sandee, and the entire State of South Carolina.

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HONORING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

(Mr. MARSHALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute all the men and women who make up the police forces across this great country. As well, the men and women in blue have served this country and protect us.

I especially want to salute the 135 officers who gave up their lives this past year. I also want to say thanks to my own father, who served as chief of police in El Dorado, Kansas, for 25 years.

My heart is especially warmed as I look out and see the tens of thousands

of police officers in Washington, D.C., this week as they honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize that yesterday marked the 70th anniversary of statehood for Israel. Israel is our close ally and a beacon of democracy in a dangerous part of the world.

Throughout history, Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist. A strong Israel is paramount to our Nation's interests in the region, and strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel is vital to the well-being of both countries.

I was also proud to introduce H. Res. 835, which passed the House by unanimous consent last week. The resolution calls all nations to enter into robust diplomatic relations with Israel, highlights Israel's recent advances in diplomacy, and affirms the importance of diplomatic recognition of the nation globally.

A strong Israel benefits all nations, and I will continue to stand with our friend and ally, Israel.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK

(Mr. BACON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week to show support of those who put their lives on the line every day to protect Nebraskans and all Americans. These law enforcement professionals protect the life, limb, and property in assigned patrol areas during long hours, keeping them away from their own families.

To those on the front line of our safety, it is not about the pay, the hours, or the conditions they work in; it is about making the world a better and safer place. Because of this, I have introduced three pieces of legislation to support those who serve on the front lines.

H.R. 1970, the Kerrie Orozco Act, allows the immediate relatives of first responders who die in the line of duty to continue to process their immigration application in a timely manner, despite the death of their loved one.

H.R. 5134, the STOP Straw Purchases Act, will increase punishment for those who purchase guns for someone who is prohibited from possessing one.

H.R. 4896 allows each State to extend the training requirements for those carrying under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act from every 12 months to up to 36 months because